

Testimony of Andrea Lavigne, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 before the Michigan Senate Families, Seniors, and Human Services Committee regarding the SB Human Trafficking bills.

My name is Andrea Lavigne, feminist human rights activist.

Iceland, a female-friendly country that happens to recognize women as human beings, has banned strip clubs so not only now has their legal sex trafficking businesses cease from existence, but because of this ban, their illegal sex trafficking has been greatly reduced. Sex trafficking in Michigan can be greatly reduced, starting with Lansing's own back yard. Until human trafficking is brought under control, this human trafficking bills package needs to declare a moratorium on all strip clubs until human trafficking is significantly reduced.

**SB 602: Human trafficking crime package (Michigan Penal Code: Amending 28.722 Sex Offender Registry Act)**

Introduced by Sen. Joe Hune (R) on October 3, 2013, to require individuals convicted of soliciting a prostitute to register on the state sex offender registry.

I would like to testify in favor of SB 602 in it's current form. This will help with public accountability by requiring registration on the sex offender's registry for men who sexually exploit women and girls in prostitution and strip clubs.

**SB 594: Human trafficking crime package (Adult Entertainment Permit)**

Introduced by Sen. Judy Emmons (R) on October 3, 2013, to allow local governments to adopt ordinances requiring individuals working at an adult entertainment business (strip club) to get a permit.

SB 594 Section 3 (a) uses and creates a new definition of the term "Adult Entertainment Business". This euphemism "Entertainment" is clearly doublespeak, legitimizing the use of women and girls bodies for sexual exploitation.

Houses of lewdness are a misdemeanor in SB 602, under Section 449a which would become a lesser included crime to the felony in MCL 750.452 House of ill-fame.

Even the process of allowing the local government to issue a permit to work, is legitimizing lewdness. What we need is a bill that re-enforces the application of MCL 750.452 to strip clubs. And, there is no reason why prosecutors should not be prosecuting these places under the MCL 750.452 and shutting them down. SB 594's proposed permits and process of allowing the local government to issue a permit to work, is legitimizing lewdness. I propose an amendment to Sec. 5 that would place requirements on the perps aka customers, requiring that they obtain permits, for safety and accountability.

SB 594 proposes Sec 5 (3) “A local unit of government that adopts an ordinance under this section shall establish clear standards for reviewing and approving or denying a permit to work at a [so-called] adult entertainment business....”

I propose an amendment to this bill requiring that local governments should have to require the strip club owners to hire abolitionist social workers contracted through Safe Harbor agencies, to do a thorough 3-Tier Pre-Employment interview of each of the women and girls to see if they truly are “free agents” of sexual exploitation. We know that 99% of the time, they are coerced by a so-called boyfriend, drug abuse, or coerced by institutionalized poverty which is due to the feminization of poverty.

I propose another amendment that would require strip clubs to display large posters with the Human Trafficking Hotline phone number and other large posters geared toward the customers warning them of heavy fines and imprisonment.

### **SB 595: Human trafficking crime package (Impose a state excise tax)**

Introduced by Sen. Michael Green (R) on October 3, 2013, to impose a \$3 per customer fee for entering an adult entertainment business (strip club), with the money going into a state fund.

SB 595 Sec. 1. States, “This act shall be known as the adult entertainment tax act”. I think it would be more appropriate to reality to call it “Female sexual exploitation tax act”. And, for this reason I oppose SB 595.

Sec. 5. (1) Suggests, “There is levied upon and shall be collected from a person engaged in the business of operating an adult entertainment facility an excise tax. The rate of the excise tax is \$3.00 a big-time joke of a pittance per customer. We cannot trust that these sleazy business owners are going to do honest Head Counts? Do you really think that \$3.00 per Head Count is a significant amount of money? The Fiscal Impact analysis of SB 595 done by the Senate Fiscal Agency, contains a chart with the bottom line goal of raising \$6.6 million dollars in state revenue made achievable by increasing the number of strip clubs, a counter-productive goal to be set in a human trafficking package.

Sec. 5 (3) states that this bill will allow the strip club owners to determine the manner in which they will derive this money to pay for the excise tax. According to Sec.9, is intended to go to domestic violence prevention and treatment. This funding will definitely come from the backs of women and girls used for sexual exploitation. I tell you, if I were a victim of domestic violence and knew that funding came from this dirty money, I would refuse that funding.

This funding method is an oxymoron. It is like charging auction block establishments, through the use and abuse of black people, to pay for the use and abuse of other black people.

P. 2 Testimony of Andrea Lavigne, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 before the Michigan Senate Families, Seniors, and Human Services Committee regarding the SB Human Trafficking bills.